

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: VOA HUNGARIAN SERVICE TAKACS TRAVEL

REF: USIA 2752, BUDAPEST 0314, MOSCOW 1452, USIA 2996

K1. DURING FEBRUARY 5 MEETING ZSTH DEIKONMIN NAGY (SEPTELS), MCAULIFFE BRIEFED HIM IN SUMMARY FASHION ON SUBSTANCE ALL FOUR REFTELS.

2. NAGY SAID HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD SUBMITTED JOSEPH TAKACS VISA APPLICATION TO FONOFF FOR DECISION. HE HAD BEEN PUZZLED AND DIYZURBEDSCY ITS SUBMISSION SO CLOSELY ON HEELS OF HIS JANUARY 27 TALK W FH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHIRLEY DURING WHICH HE THOUGHT THEY HAD REACHED EL AGREEMENT ONILUTURE HANDLING OF VISA APPLICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF VOA HUNGARIAN SERVICE. HE ASKED THAT MCAULIFFE CONVEY HIS DEEP APPRECIATION TO "HIS FORMER SCHOOLMATE AT SAROSPATAK" (SHIRLEY) WHOSE UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR JANUARY 27 CONVERSATION SQUARED WITH HIS OWN AND WHO HAD SAVED HIM FROM WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN AN EMBARRASSING PREDICAMENT.

3. RECALLING HIS CONVERSATION WITH SHIRLEY, NAGY SAID QUESTION OF VISAS FOR VOA'S HUNGARIAN SERVICE CORRESPONDENTS HAS IN GOH VIEW TWO ASPECTS: A) OFFICIAL VISAS FOR PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL AND PROFESSIONAL DUTIES IN HUNGARY, AND B) PRIVATE AND NON-OFFICIAL TRAVEL. IN FORMER CONFIDENTIAL

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CASE HE PERSONALLY FAVORED TREATING VISA APPLICATIO FROM

MEMBERS VOA HUNGARIAN SERVICE ON INDIVIDUAL AD HOC BASIS LIKE VISA APPLICATIONS FROM PRESS AND RADIO JOURNALISTS FROM ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY. OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT JOURNALISTS UPON ARRIVAL IN HUNGARY WOULD RECEIVE SAME TREATMENT AS ANY OTHER VISITING FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT AND GOH WOULD EXPECT VISA HOLDER TO BEHAVE JUST AS OTHER PROFESSIONAL CORRESPONDENTS DO. IN LATTER CASE, HE AGAIN HELD PERSONAL VIEW THAT APPLICATIONS FOR REGULAR VISITORS VISAS SHOULD BE REVIEWED ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS. IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT APPLICANT WAS SEEKING UNOFFICIAL, TOURIST VISA IN ORDER TO SIGHTSEE OR VISIT WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN HUNGARY; AND UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES GOH WOULD EXPECT HOLDERS OF SUCH VISITORS VISAS TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES LIKE TOURISTS AND NOT LIKE PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS.

4. DEPFONMIN SAID HE HAD MADE NO COMMITMENTS TO SHIRLEY AND HE COULD MAKE NONE TO MCAULIFFE. HE AGAIN SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR TIME FOR PREPARATORY WORK AND THAT HE WOULD WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE SEEK TO INSURE THAT SENIOR HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES REVIEW EACH CASE ON AN AD HOC BASIS AND ON ITS MERITS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE ASSISTANT USIA DIRECTOR SHIRLEY OF DEPFONMIN NAGY'S APPRECIATION FOR HIS ACTION.
MCAULIFFE

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